

In a recent interview, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressed disappointment that the work of her Democrat Congress isn't getting proper recognition. "...We haven't really gotten the credit for what we have done," the speaker lamented to the political web site Politics Daily.

One has to wonder if the speaker is spending too much time in Washington, DC. Were she to visit South Alabama she would undoubtedly encounter many people all too aware of the "accomplishments" she has helped to usher into law.

It wasn't long ago that the phrase "do nothing Congress" was fashionable with political parties and the press in describing the slow pace of legislative activity on Capitol Hill. This year, however, the mood is quite different. While some media outlets have called the 111th Congress the most productive in a generation, opinion polls reflect growing public opposition to the liberal-led Congress and President Obama's record volume of new spending and mandates.

To President Obama, it's not his approach that's wrong, but rather the mindset of Americans. In a speech last week, the president observed that people are "angry, frustrated, scared, anxious, uncertain, nervous, discouraged and shaken up." "They're also confused and not thinking clearly."

It's hard to understand how the speaker and our president can continue to be so tone deaf and

disconnected from the reality of Main Street America. There is even talk of the speaker pushing for more big government legislation during the final weeks of this Congress.

The unpopularity of this administration's policies has been building for nearly two years and the people have had enough. From the over-hyped \$787 billion stimulus that failed to jump start the economy, to the job-killing Cap and Trade energy legislation passed in the House, to a \$1 trillion take over of health care that will drive up premiums and deny many the right to keep their plans, this Congress has certainly been the most arrogant and out of touch in memory.

President Obama came to office pledging not only to bring change but to also operate in a more transparent fashion than previous administrations. While there has been a dramatic shift in policy, this White House has done very little to facilitate more transparency and accountability in governing. Its practice of appointing a record number of unaccountable and unconfirmed "Czars" with undetermined amounts of power has also raised serious concerns.

For the good of the country, the speaker and the president should finally heed the loud message that Americans from coast to coast are delivering this week and stop the mad dash to expand the reach of the federal government.

I continue to support the House Republican Pledge to America, which puts a foot on the brakes of the big government express; repealing Obamacare and working to pass a targeted health care reform program; rolling back non-security, non-mandatory government spending to 2008 levels – saving over \$1 trillion in tax dollars over ten years; and requiring all bills voted on by the House to pass a constitutionality test and be posted online three days in advance.

The Pledge is just the beginning, however. Conservatives will also seek input from the public and new Members of Congress on ways to reduce wasteful spending, as well as preserve beneficial tax relief and rejuvenate our stalled economy.

Slow Oil Spill Claims Process Unacceptable:

Last week, a group of local business owners gathered outside the Gulf Coast Claims Facility office in Foley to protest the lack of response to their claims requests. In some cases, business claims have been left unanswered for far too long, forcing owners to the verge of bankruptcy and closure within weeks.

While the volume of claims being paid increased in September, the overall picture is disturbing. As I visit local businesses throughout Baldwin and Mobile counties, I hear first-hand reports of claims being delayed or underpaid without explanation. Many claims are denied outright while similar ones are paid in full. There is no transparency and no consistency in the GCCF management of the claims process.

As far back as July, GCCF Administrator Kenneth Feinberg promised the residents and

businesses of the Gulf Coast they would be paid expeditiously – within 48 hours for individuals and seven days for businesses. Unfortunately, this has not been the experience of a growing number of local businesses.

This is absolutely unacceptable. The Alabama Gulf Coast, with its large tourist-centered economy, was disproportionately impacted by the oil spill. The GCCF has adequate funds to ensure that Alabama businesses are properly compensated for lost revenues, and I am committed to holding the GCCF accountable.

My staff and I work for you. If we can ever be of service, do not hesitate to call my office toll free at 1-800-288-8721.